Seymour Street Methodist Church

Living for Jesus, Sharing His Love

News Sheet - Sunday 28th June 2020

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Worship Services Online

Today our **Circuit Morning Worship at 11.30am** will be led by the young people of our circuit. This has been coordinated by Jessica Overhead, and Matthew McCrea has been responsible for the video editing. Our thanks to them and all our young people who have taken part.

The service will be available on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/seymourstreet/) and will be online at 11.30am on Sunday. Services will also be available on YouTube. You can view this week's and previous services here: bit.ly/LisburnDromoreYouTube
You can also listen to the service by telephone.

From Sunday 5th July the phone-in service will **not** be available on Zoom, but can be accessed **'on demand'** at any stage during the week by phoning 028 9227 0330. Playback should begin immediately when connected.

Next Sunday our **Circuit Morning Worship at 11.30am** will led by Rev Thomas Clarke and the Broomhedge and Priesthill congregations.

Virtual Coffee Time

We will be running a 'Virtual Coffee Time' before the service each Sunday from 11.00am on Zoom using this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85937791368
Meeting ID: 859 3779 1368
By phone call:
0203 051 2874 and use:
Meeting ID: 859 3779 1368 then press #
If asked for Personal ID press # again

Urgent Prayer Contacts: Anne McBratney ☎ 9258 7295 or Joan & Harold Baird ☎ 9266 5064 💻 harold.baird@btinternet.com

Superintendent Minister: Rev David Turtle ☎ 9266 2303 and 07808 909192 💻 david.turtle@irishmethodist.org

Pastoral Assistant: Shirley Carrington☎ 9260 7881 and 07746 666860

Youth Pastor: Ashleigh O'Sullivan ☎ 07916 206901 💻 ashleigh.osullivan@irishmethodist.org

Secretary: Adrienne Stewart 💻 secretary@seymourstreet.org

If you have any items for inclusion on the News Sheet for Sunday 5th July please contact: Sam Beckett ☎ 9267 6225 💻 sambeckett@sky.com by 5pm on Thursday 2nd July at the latest please.

Seymour Street Update

In the letter to the Hebrews, chapter 10 begins by showing how Jesus' sacrifice and completed work as our high priest have accomplished what the sacrifices and work of the Jewish high priests only symbolised. Because of what Jesus has done we have been forgiven. There is no more need for sacrifices. Often preachers will point out that there is significance in the fact that it is recorded that Jesus sat down after completing his once and for all sacrifice. (Hebrews 10:12-14)

Because of this, we have access to the Father that was symbolised by the High Priest going into the Most Holy Place, the innermost part of the Temple on a limited, irregular basis. Those who trust in Jesus are free to draw near to God because through faith our sins have been forgiven. Jesus is fully accepted, and because of Him, in Him we are also fully accepted and loved.

In the light of that truth, verse 23 tells us to hold unswervingly to the hope we profess because the One who has promised is faithful, and then in 24-25 one of the ways we can demonstrate an unswerving grasp of hope in God is described: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

In these two verses we are directed to hold on to the hope we have in Christ in four ways:

1. Spur one another on toward love. The word we translate as spur is a word meaning “to provoke,” “to stir up.” In a negative sense it means to dispute, contend, or exasperate. In a positive context (like it is used here) it means to entice or motivate. We are to entice one another towards love. Love is the core, the DNA of the Christian life.

2. Spur one another on to good deeds. I might not agree with all that reformed pastor John Piper writes or says, but he gives a great definition of an aspect of what love is: "Love is the overflow of joy in God that gladly meets the needs of others." This is how love works. The feeling of love in our hearts motivates our will to act in accordance with it. To spur one another on toward love is to spur one another on toward good deeds. We have seen this in action over the months of lock-down with many of you caring for each other and for those in our community.

3. Continuing to meet together. We can’t spur one another on toward love and good deeds if we neglect getting together. Spurring, enticing, and motivating requires relationship, it requires community, it requires being together. Obviously that has been challenging over the past months, but many of us have found ways to continue being together even when physically we have had to be apart. Having learned that we cannot take being physically present together for granted, let's take time to reflect on what 'meeting together' really means. What are the key aspects of meeting together? And are they dependent on being in the same physical space at the same time? These are things that Covid-19 has caused us to ponder on!

4. Encourage one another. In the difficulties of the past months we have also seen the need for encouragement. Often we think of encouragement coming just through a pat on the back from others, but perhaps the greatest encouragement is when others identify and share how they see God at work in and through us. When we are feeling perhaps that we're not making much headway in our journey of discipleship, but when someone else identifies how they see the fruit of God's Spirit displayed in us. The key is to keep going in our walk with God. The hope we have in Christ is one to be practised and lived it out day by day. This is not a hope to be only passively accepted and believed, but actively lived; it is a way of life. Faith results in practice. It results in love and good deeds and moves us to 'meet' together and encourage one another. As we do the worth of the sacrifice of Jesus becomes 'visible' in us to those around.

Child Protection Issues: If you have any child protection concerns please contact Steve Gray (Designated Person) 07715 009541 or Deborah Kinghan (Deputy Designated Person) 07834 354994.

Holidays…..
David will be on holiday from **1st to 15th of July**. If there are any pastoral emergencies during this time please contact Shirley. There will be no update email for the next 2 weeks.

The Communication Task Group will meet by Zoom on Monday 29th June 2020 at 8.00pm

Bereavement

We were saddened by the death of Mr Robert (Bobby) Graham of Leamington Place. This was particularly sad as his son Robin had passed away just a few months ago. Please remember Bobby's brother Frank and their small family circle in your prayers.

Returning to our Buildings

Following a meeting of our ministers, staff and stewards from across the circuit we can confirm that our **final shared circuit online Sunday morning worship** of the lock-down will take place on **Sunday 26 July**. From the 2nd August, our six societies will take a variety of approaches to returning to our buildings, ranging from weekly live-streaming of a small gathering in the church building, to continuing with an online-only service combined with garden fellowship.

We will be taking a cautious approach to the return, not taking any risks with safety. Just yesterday we have received some more detailed guidance from the NI Executive and the Methodist Church in Ireland.

This means that some of the things we do know about services in the building are: Strict hand hygiene must be observed by those participating in gathered worship in church buildings; people will be seated by household and with appropriate distance separating them. In Methodist churches this will be 2m; children should be kept with their household; singing will be limited to musicians at the front of the building for at least July & August.

We will continue to update arrangements as further guidance emerges.
A letter to the circuit will be sent out by email and post this week.

Staff Update….
With changes to the Government's Job Retention Programme allowing for more flexibility for staff on furlough the Church Council took the decision that Ashleigh (our youth pastor) and Roy (our caretaker) will both return to work on a part-time basis from the 1st July. We're delighted that they can be back with us!

Storehouse are trying to continue providing emergency food assistance to those in need. The demand for help may increase as things develop so they are asking churches to try and continue making food donations. If you can help please leave any food items you can provide with Derek and Lesley Noble, 15 Marnabrae Park, Lisburn, BT28 3PD (at the Belsize Road end of Kirkwoods Road). Storehouse will arrange collection.
The items requested are Tinned Fish, Tea Bags and Tinned Meals.

PLEASE NOTE…. You can also **donate** money to Storehouse directly either by setting up a **standing order** or making a **one off payment** from your bank account to the account below.

Account No: 65495359
Sort Code: 089299

Thank you.

Congratulations Corner…..

Congratulations and **happy birthday** to **June Rainey** for her **70th Birthday** yesterday. Enjoy! And may you have many more!

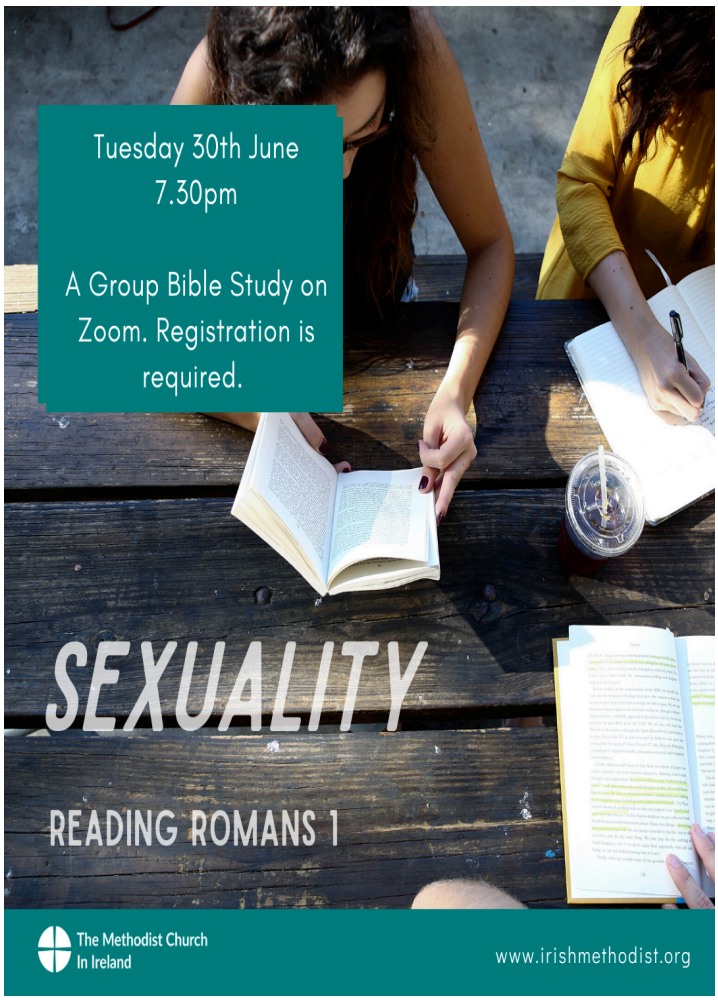
We are delighted to announce the **engagement** of **Caitlyn McCrea and Aaron Kelly**. Wonderful news and we wish you both every blessing and a lifetime of happiness.

This one is a little early, but due to there being no update email next week, we want to wish **Elaine Kinghan** a very happy **50th Birthday**. Congratulations and we hope you have a great day!

*If you know of someone who has a **significant** birthday or anniversary in our church family and would like a mention in **'Celebrations Corner'** please contact David or Shirley.*
Obviously we don't have space for every event but we'll try to fit in the major ones if possible!

Contributions to Church Funds

Many thanks to all of those who have responded by making contributions to our church funds either by cheque, standing orders or online payments. We are deeply grateful for your support at this time!



Sexuality - Reading Romans 1
Tuesday 30th June at 7.30pm on Zoom

A number of weeks ago Methodists from across the island came together via Zoom to study a passage from Song of Songs in the 2nd of a series of 3 studies. The final study in this series is focused on Romans 1 and again we are offering the opportunity to join this via Zoom.

Registration in advance is necessary using the details below.
In two sessions in one evening we will:
1. Participate in the Methodist Church in Ireland's conversation about human sexuality
2. Engage with an important passage of Scripture which is regarded as having particular significance in our understanding of human sexuality (Romans 1)
3. Reflect on how we interpret Scripture
4. Grow together in our Christian discipleship

The 2 sessions will have a 15 minute break between. The final session should finish no later than 10.00pm
Register in advance for this meeting:
https://bit.ly/Romans1Registration
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

MCI Faith & Order Committee

DAMASK
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

If you are a Lisburn resident and you need help with:

Food Deliveries

Prescription Medicine

Emotional Support

Benefits & Personal Finance

or any other issues related to Social Isolation and Coronavirus

PHONE THE DAMASK ADVICE SERVICE HELPLINE
07749 332662 or 07784 955698

CONSULTATIONS BY PHONE ONLY - FREE - OPERATING HOURS TUESDAY to THURSDAY 9 am to 5 pm
OUTSIDE THESE HOURS phone 07749 332662 Email: advice@damasklisburn.org

Damask Community Outreach is a registered charity which supports the local community in Lisburn
Address: Seymour Street Methodist Church Premises, BT27 4XG. www.damasklisburn.org